(b) the effective steps taken by his Ministry, so far, to change social attitude towards these people, especially the Scheduled Castes;

(c) whether 'dalit' word is appropriate; and

(d) whether 'dalit Muslim' or 'dalit Christian' does not create a confusion?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) The Ministry and its associated organizations, *inter-alia*, look into grievances of persons belonging to the Ministry's target groups.

(b) The Ministry implements programmes for educational and economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes and persons with disability. In addition, there are components under various schemes of the Ministry for awareness generation. Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, the Ministry provides financial assistance, to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, which implement the Acts, *inter-alia*, for awareness generation and incentive for inter-caste marriages, where one of the spouse is a member of a Scheduled Caste.

(c) and (d) Propriety of usage is a matter of subjective opinion, and depends, *inter alia*, on the context.

Grant-in-aid for disabled and old age home schemes

*410. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any cut in the grant-in-aid for the disabled and old age home schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State wise, especially in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the details for the current year compared to the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken to grant full aid to each scheme under the Ministry, especially for the minority Muslims, SC/ST projects in the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) to (c) The grant-in-aid provided to Non-governmental Organizations under various schemes including for disability and older persons was demand driven till 2006-07 and no State-wise allocations were fixed for this purpose. From 2007-08 onwards, indicative notional allocations are being fixed State-wise under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme and the Scheme of Integrated Programme for Older Persons, among others, to ensure equitable allocation of funds to NGOs located in various States/UTs, so that services to these groups are provided in as many States, as possible. Statements indicating grant-in-aid released under the two schemes in the last three years and in the current year up to 14.12.2009 are enclosed as Statement-I and II (*See* below).

(d) The Ministry projects its financial requirements at the time of preparation of Annual Plan. Scheme-wise allocations in any year depend on the total Annual Plan allocation of the Ministry, and the requirements of various schemes.

Statement-I

State-wise details of grants released under the Scheme of "Integrated Programme for Older Persons"

S.No.	Name of the State	Grant-in-Aid Released (Rs. in Lakhs)			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (As on 14.12.2009)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	273.23	458.51	412.97	145.39
2.	Bihar	0.00	2.76	2.76	4.87
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	1.18	5.97	0.00
4	Gujarat	1.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Haryana	26.5	35.38	29.10	39.99
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1.80	3.42	0.60	0.00
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.72	0.58	0.00	0.00
8.	Karnataka	135.94	190.73	196.47	164.23
9.	Kerala	5.00	2.22	0.00	0.00
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2.76	8.02	9.98	4.88
11.	Maharashtra	30.47	31.99	49.92	22.09
12.	Orissa	236.63	243.29	293.92	37.15
13.	Punjab	16.94	13.66	10.00	6.03
14.	Rajasthan	7.38	13.15	7.48	2.32
15.	Tamil Nadu	122.69	205.67	209.62	27.09
16.	Uttar Pradesh	96.41	53.52	40.31	33.30
17.	Uttarakhand	5.97	3.63	5.54	0.00
18.	West Bengal	124.22	124.43	261.85	76.68
	North Eastern States				
19.	Assam	40.17	79.22	87.29	4.89
20.	Manipur	75.99	98.99	120.16	17.80
21.	Mizoram	0	0.98	3.88	1.29
22.	Nagaland	0.00	1.38	0.00	0.00
23.	Tripura	11.35	20.71	4.30	5.66
	TOTAL :	1218.55	1593.42	1752.12	593.66

Statement-II

State-wise details of Grants Released under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Grant-in-Aid Released (Rs in Lakhs)			
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10 (As on 14.12.2009)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1400.58	1807.74	1317.78	276.00
2	Bihar	194.43	112.62	87.75	0.00
3	Chhattisgarh	52.01	39.23	76.69	0.00
4	Goa	3.38	14.87	13.09	0.00
5	Gujarat	93.49	81.17	82.20	8.00
6	Haryana	79.49	186.31	127.92	0.00
7	Himachal Pradesh	38.3	11.49	40.83	10.00
8	Jammu & Kashmir	13.62	7.91	27.93	0.00
9	Jharkhand	4.98	16.68	10.06	0.00
10	Karnataka	480.49	1135.92	814.66	50.00
11	Kerala	363.69	237.19	378.40	123.00
12	Madhya Pradesh	120.17	134.63	170.35	23.00
13'	Maharashtra	143.85	188.41	254.23	1.00
14	Orissa	253.79	418.51	367.34	18.00
15	Punjab	71.55	105.67	94.00	12.00
16	Rajasthan	126.11	182.7	93.14	37.00
17	Tamil Nadu	417.68	481.75	474.37	20.00
18	Uttar Pradesh	600.52	704.54	700.21	25.00
19	Uttarakhand	55.44	43.98	63.02	22.00
20	West Bengal	383.68	449.94	641.12	22.00
	North Eastern States				
21	Arunachal Pradesh	5.47	10.67	7.37	0.00
22	Assam	91.79	84.72	121.92	0.00
23	Manipur	144.87	125.7	196.76	2.00
24	Meghalaya	31.77	85.16	75.65	3.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
25	Mizoram	21.78	12.5	19.60	0.00
26	Nagaland	0.00	1.43	0.00	0.00
27	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28	Tripura	12.24	11.86	10.81	0.00
	TOTAL :	5205.17	6693.3	6267.2	652.00

Resolving differences with Pakistan for benefit of regional trade

*411. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:
SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the U.S. Secretary of State Ms. Hillary Clinton during her visit to this region called upon India to resolve all outstanding differences with Pakistan bilaterally for the benefit of regional trade;

(b) if so, the support offered by the U.S. to help resolve these differences;

(c) the issues and differences if any identified for such resolution and the Pakistan Government's response thereto; and

(d) whether the U.S. at the same time cleared a $680 billion defence aid to Pakistan and Government's response to Ms. Clinton's suggestion and the U.S. President's approval of defence aid to Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) During the visit of US Secretary of State, Ms. Hillary Clinton to Pakistan, in October 2009, she expressed the hope that at some point in the future, the United States would like to see India and Pakistan resolve their outstanding differences. She stated, "I believe that if there were peace between Pakistan and India and the outstanding were resolved, Pakistan would take off like a rocket in terms of economic development."

Government is not aware of any formal Pakistani response to this suggestion of the US Secretary of State.

Government has always advocated the resolution of outstanding issues with Pakistan through bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan.

(d) No, Sir. Government has consistently drawn the attention of the United States and other countries to the need for proper benchmarks and accountability to prevent the diversion of assistance provided to Pakistan for use in its military build up against India. Government has also stressed the need for constant vigilance as also close monitoring of such assistance being provided.

Research in the field of cold fusion

*412. SHRI Y.P.TRIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of research is going on in various countries in the field of cold fusion which can be the ultimate answer to solve the energy crisis;